



## **BALLARD CIVIC (MUNICIPAL) CENTER PARK DEVELOPMENT** **PROJECT ADVISORY TEAM MEETING #1**

**Tuesday, June 29 2004 7:00-9:00 p.m.**  
Segway Building – 5701 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW

### **MEETING SUMMARY (approved 7/20/04)**

**PAT Members Present:**

Charles Anderson	Sarah Neilson
Davidya Kasperzyk	Jeanette Plutchok
Stephen Lundgren	Micah Shapiro
Beth Miller	Scott Shinn

**PAT Members Absent:**

Marianne Forssblad  
John Marasco

**Others Present:**

Mark Simpson, Bumgardner Architects  
Tom Ostrom, Parks NW Operations Manager  
Jon Jainga, Parks Project Manager  
Cathy Tuttle, Parks Planner  
Lisa Corry, Swift & Company Landscape Architects  
Barbara Swift, Swift & Company Landscape Architects

**Meeting Facilitator:** Cathy Tuttle

**Previous Meeting Notes:** First meeting

**Design Schedule:** Start of design: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2004  
Construction start: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2005

**Welcome:** Cathy Tuttle opened the meeting. PAT members introduced themselves. The PAT sign-in sheet was circulated and ground rules were presented.

**Role of PAT:** Cathy Tuttle described the overall role of the PAT as well as its purpose for the first meeting. The overall role of the PAT, as directed by Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds, is to evaluate, review, and comment on skate park elements and possible water features as outlined in the approved New Skate Bowl Study 2 schematic plan. The PAT members should also report back to their constituent community as the park design progresses. The task for the first Ballard PAT meeting was to review and comment on the location, size and adjacency of skate program elements.

**Schematic Design:** The project landscape architectural consultants, Barbara Swift and Lisa Corry, summarized relevant elements of the plan reviewed and approved by the Board of Park Commissioners and the Parks Superintendent. Since the focus of the first PAT discussion was on the skate area, the consultants focused their description on the area designated as the “new skate bowl with sculptural enclosure for security” in the approved New Skate Bowl Study 2. The consultants emphasized that while the area they drew with a skate bowl

area serves as a placeholder, design of this area had not yet been fully realized as to its size, buffering, and how it relates to surrounding uses.

### **Skate area options:**

Parks Project Manager Jon Jainga described the skate area as proposed in the New Skate Bowl Study 2 plan as approximately 5,200 sq. ft. The existing bowl occupies 2,250 sq. ft. and the existing street skate portion at the Ballard site is about 7,810 sq. ft. Overall, the Ballard Civic Center Park is about 60,000 sq. ft. Jon asked the PAT members to think about how much area could be devoted to skateboard uses. Other questions the PAT members were asked to comment on include who the skateboard area should serve, how the area could best relate the surrounding residential and commercial uses, and what kind of buffering and security fences might separate the skateboard area from the rest of the park. Jon told the group that the comments from the PAT would be shared with the Citywide Skate Advisory Committee (SAC) for their input.

### **Skate feature discussion:**

PAT members all began with the understanding that a skate area will be included in the Ballard Civic Center Park. The PAT members review and comments focused on some of the details of the skate area.

1. **Size of skate area.** PAT members had many opinions. Some thought it would be enough to replicate the bowl only and provide 2,250 sq. ft. for skating. Others would like to maximize the space dedicated to skating in the park. Others worried that not providing enough space for skateboarding would cause skateboarders to use other areas of the park or adjacent streets for their sport. A PAT member said the discussion should be framed as “How much green do we need” rather than “How much skate area do we need” in the park. The PAT decided to ask the SAC to evaluate three different sizes of skate areas for Ballard – 4,000, 5,000 and 7,000 sq. ft. The PAT needs the advice of the SAC to understand what is possible in each of these options. The results of the SAC meeting will be shared at the July 20 PAT meeting.
2. **Who does the skate area serve?** The PAT discussed whether the skate area should be only a bowl or should provide some skate areas for younger and more inexperienced skaters in a “street skate” area. Without a “street” element for the skate area, some PAT members were concerned with skaters spilling over into the park and larger community. No clear decision was reached on who the skate area needed to serve.
3. **Fences and buffering.** PAT members were concerned with making sure fences surrounding the skate area did not detract from the beauty of the park as well as the way people moved within the park. The PAT asked the designers to consider alternatives to chain link fences around the skate area. PAT members asked what Parks Standards guided fencing around athletic facilities (*Park staff response: 4' is the minimum and 10' the max – a fence Parks can lock and secure is usually 6'*). PAT members asked about covering the skate area with a green roof. Parks staff remarked that they have security concerns about enclosed, unstaffed athletic facilities and will not consider a green roof as part of this phase of the park development. PAT members wondered if all “skateable” areas of the park needed to be locked or if some of the areas dedicated for playground could also be intentionally used by skaters.
4. **Location of skate area/relation to surrounding properties.** [Note: the Parks Superintendent’s news release of 5/21/04 incorrectly states that

the new skate area will be “east of the park’s center” rather than west of the park’s center as illustrated in the approved schematic design. See attached approved schematic design for clarification of location.] PAT members reviewed options for the skate area location. The approved New Skate Bowl Study 2 plan shows the skate area in the southwest quadrant of the park. Within this quadrant, a variety of locations and orientations are possible. The adjacent property developer, while supporting a skate area, prefers a skate area located at the furthest possible distance. Other PAT members had a variety of opinions: close to or in exactly the same spot in the SW corner of the park, in the NE corner of the park, in the SE corner of the park, or no preference. Parks staff will follow the location guidelines approved in the New Skate Bowl Study 2 and continue to locate the skate area in the SW corner of the site.

5. **The existing bowl.** The PAT member representing Parent’s for the Ballard Bowl presented a “Parent’s Plan” to the PAT members and spoke in favor of keeping the existing bowl. A member of the audience questioned whether the existing bowl needed to be replaced. Other members of the PAT wanted to know if the existing bowl needed to be replaced. Earlier this year, Parks staff researched whether the bowl needed to be replaced and concluded that it did. The decision has been made by the Parks Superintendent to build a new permanent skate bowl at the Ballard site.
6. **Street improvements/mid-block crossing.** Several PAT members wanted to make sure that street improvements and a mid-block crossing between the QFC property and the park that were recommended in the Ballard Civic Center Master Plan would be part of the park design. Parks is aware of and plans to incorporate many of the recommendations from the Master Plan.

**Upcoming Schedule:**

- **Ballard Civic Center PAT**, Tuesday July 20, 7 p.m. at the Nordic Heritage Museum
- **Skate Advisory Committee**, Wed. July 14, 6 p.m. 100 Dexter Ave N

**Handouts:**

- \* Agenda, List of PAT members, Role of Ballard Project Advisory Team, Questions under discussion, New Skate Bowl Study 2 plan, PAT Draft timeline, Superintendent’s Press Release of 5/21/04.
- \* Parent’s for the Ballard Bowl distributed a plan to all PAT members.

**Next Meeting:**

**July 20, 7:00-9:00 P.M. Nordic Heritage Museum 3014 NW 67<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Summary By:**

Cathy Tuttle

**Additional Information is Available:**

- Park web site: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/ballardMunicipalCenterPark.htm>
- Jon Jainga, Seattle Parks Project Manager, (206) 684-7054 [jon.jainga@seattle.gov](mailto:jon.jainga@seattle.gov)
- Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks Planner, (206) 684-7033; [cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov](mailto:cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov)

# APPROVED SCHEMATIC DESIGN 5/21/04

